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think it a duty I owe to my fellow citizens to give them every information, till then I shall remain silent, and leave the inhabitant of Chatham county to his own reflections.

NICHOL TURNBULL.

Deptford Hill, 19th Nov., 1799.

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### THE MINIS FAMILY.

BY THE GENEALOGICAL EDITOR.

When the trustees for establishing the Colony of Georgia in America made known their willingness to receive pecuniary assistance in the effort to accomplish their design, subscription lists were opened at a number of places in England, and the people of all classes opened their purses in behalf of the worthy cause. Among them, the Hebrews established a commission of their own class to receive money from such as sympathized with the object. Notwithstanding this, the Trustees had let it be known that people of that religion would not be accepted as settlers in the new Colony. Some of them, however, seriously thought of joining the expedition, but none offered themselves.

The first party of the Georgia settlers, headed by General Oglethorpe, arrived at Savannah, February 12, (new style), 1733; and soon after, that is to say, on the 11th of July, a vessel arrived with a party of about forty Hebrew colonists. In it was Mr. Abraham Minis, with his wife Abigail and two daughters, Esther and Leah. Oglethorpe made known to them the fact that their presence on the soil reserved for his colonists was contrary to the wishes and order of the Trustees; but, considering the difficulties in the case, he permitted them to remain, subject to any requirements of the governing body after he had set before them the facts in the premises. Suffice it to say that, while no definite conclusion was ever reached, and no consent ever given, those people were not disturbed, and they became active participants in all the affairs of the Colony.

From that time the Minis and other families have become so closely identified with the history and development of Georgia that they are rightfully leaders in all matters of public importance. We are now concerned only with the one family and will leave the consideration of others to another time.

Shortly after their arrival a son was born to Abraham and Abigail, to whom the name of Philip was given, and he was the first male white child born in Georgia. His career was a notable one, and much could be said of him which would be worthy of the careful attention of the reader. He was an ardent supporter of the cause of independence, and, through the ample means at his command, rendered most material aid towards the maintenance of the Continental Armies. His boldness in supporting the enemies of Great Britain and assisting with his fortune the troops engaged in resisting the oppression of his people, brought upon him the extreme hatred of the Royalist General Assembly under Sir James Wright, and he was named in the notorious act passed by that body, known as "The Disqualifying Act," declaring all persons named in it ever afterwards incapable of holding or exercising any office of trust, honor, or profit within the limits of Georgia. In that list of one hundred and fifty-one names Philip Minis stands as number eighty-four.

Time and space forbid the recording of all the facts known as to his providing for the keeping up of the military forces within the territory occupied by American soldiers in the Southern Department, but it is eminently proper to insert at this point the following document, recently recovered from a mass of old papers in which it had for many years been hidden, and its existence unsuspected. It is now, therefore, for the first time, given publicity:

#### Indorsed

A notarial copy of the certificate signed by Col. Wm. Kennon, Commissary Gen'l and Brig'r Gen'l Robert Howe to Mr. Philip Minis of the monies due him from the Continental chest. Dated 17th May, 1777.

17th Feb'y, 1777, Chs Town, So. Carolina.

Whereas in November last there was neither Commissary Gen'l or pay master Gen'l in the State of Georgia, and I acted as such, by order of Gen'l Howe, and having no fund established for such purposes, was obliged to take up such money as was necessary on the credit of the publick, and accordingly Mr. Philip Minis advanced for the pay of the third North Carolina Regiment the sum of Two Hundred and Twenty two pounds fifteen shillings and six pence; for White's Volunteers Sixty two pounds Six shillings and six pence; and for the Virginia 8th Regiment Six Hundred and fifty three pounds two shillings and two pence; and Seven

Hundred and Ninety one pounds twelve shillings and Six pence for the purchase of provisions for the whole of the Continental Troops then in the said State—The whole amounting to Seventeen Hundred and Twenty Nine pounds Eighteen Shillings Georgia Currency, or Ten Thousand Nine hundred and Ninteen and a half dollars, which said sum is now due to the said Minis from the Continent of America.

(Signed) WILL KENNON.

The above sums were advanced by Mr. Minis as set forth in this Certificate.

(Signed) ROBERT HOWE.

I, John Troup, Notary Public, duly admitted and sworn, dwelling in Broad Street in Charles Town, in the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify to all whom these presents concern that the before written Certificate signed by Will Kennon with the thereunder written Certificate signed by Robert Howe are true and full copies of the original Certificates produced and shewn to me by Mr. Jacob Read, Attorney for Mr. Philip Minis, on this Seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Seven, with which said original Certificates I have carefully compared the same. Thus done and certified by me the said Notary at Charles Town this Seventeenth day of May in the presence of Thomas Radcliffe, Jun'r, and Jacob Read—witnesses. In Faith and Testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my seal and subscribed my name,

JOHN TROUP, Not. (Seal)

Oct. 31st, 1778, give a receipt to Michael Helligar, Esq., Treasurer, for Six Thousand Nine Hundred & Nineteen & a Half Dollars.

Memorandum that this 24th Decem'r, 1778, Edw'd Telfair settled the sum of Six Thousand Nine Hundred & Nineteen Dollars & One Half, being the sum he received of the Treasury of the United States on my account.  
6919 Dollars.

PHILIP MINIS.

Mr. Philip Minis died on Friday, the 6th of March, 1789, and six days after the Gazette published this obituary of him:

“On Friday, March 6th, 1789, departed this life Mr. Philip Minis, merchant, aged 55 years. He was the first

white male child born in this state. His remains were buried in the Jews' burial ground on Sunday morning, attended by a large number of respectable citizens who, by their solemn attention, evinced how sensibly they felt the loss the community has sustained in so valuable a man. He has left a disconsolate widow and five children, together with an aged and venerable mother, and five sisters, to deplore their loss. He was an affectionate husband, a dutiful son, tender father and kind brother; in short, he was in every sense of the word a truly honest man."

The father of the man of whom we have just written, Abraham Minis, soon after his landing in Georgia, entered into mercantile life, and associated with him after a while a Mr. Salomons, using the firm name of Minis & Salomons. The copartnership existed, as shown by the Colonial records, as early as 1737, and transacted a large business. Their dealings with the Trustees of the Colony in relation to the issuing of what were known as "Sola Bills," &c., are mentioned even as far back as April 27, of that year, and in 1738 we find that they did a considerable amount of business in the shipping line, having a number of vessels consigned to them. It is hardly worth while to quote the items which show the various business transactions of the firm; but it is well to make note of the fact that such items prove that the house of Minis & Salomons was well established in business some time before the date of the founding of the firm of Harris & Habersham, heretofore considered the first merchants to do business in Georgia. The year of the founding of the latter is universally conceded to be 1749.

Philip Minis and his wife Judith (Pollock) had a son Isaac who married Dinah Cohen. A son was born to the latter couple named Philip, and he studied to be a physician, and was commissioned as an assistant surgeon in the United States Army April 12, 1826, and promoted with the rank of major in the year 1836. He resigned in 1837.

The Hon. Wilson Lumpkin, twice governor of Georgia, and United States Senator, was, on the 17th of July, 1836, appointed Commissioner to execute the Cherokee Treaty of 1835, and at that time Dr. Minis was the Disbursing Agent of the Indian Department U. S. A. Mr. Lumpkin entertained a high regard for the doctor, and in his correspondence mentioned him for the first time in a letter to C. A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated November 22, 1836, in these words: "I had the good fortune to meet with Doctor Minis on the 8th inst., at Gainesville, in Georgia, on his way to New Echota, when and where I communicated to him

verbally my views in connection with his official duties;" and his name occurs frequently in the correspondence on the subject of the Cherokee Indians until July, 1837, the date of his resignation from the army.

A younger son of Isaac and Dinah Minis was Abram, born in 1820, and he married Miss Lavinia Florance. He was one of Savannah's leading merchants and a citizen of the highest integrity and social influence. He was an alderman of the city in 1859-1860. He continued in active business life as long as he lived. In his latest years he took into partnership two of his sons, J. Florance and Isaac, the name of the firm being A. Minis and Sons. Another son, Abram, studied law, was admitted to the Savannah Bar, and is one of our best known lawyers, with considerable practice. The business of A. Minis & Sons was continued after the death of the father until the youngest member followed him to the tomb, and then Mr. J. F. Minis retired and closed out the business.

The last named married Miss Louisa Porter Gilmer, daughter of General J. F. Gilmer. Isaac married Miss Eugenia P. Myers and died leaving two sons. Abram married first Miss Anna M. Cohen, of Baltimore, who died a few months after marriage, and his second wife's name was Mabel A. Henry. A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abram Minis, Miss Lavinia Florance Minis, married Charles I. Henry, of New York. Another daughter is Miss Maria Minis.

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### EXTRACTS FROM THE FIRST GEORGIA NEWSPAPER—THE GAZETTE.

The first newspaper printed in Georgia was issued from Savannah and the first number was dated Thursday, April 7th, 1763. The publisher, Mr. James Johnston, had nothing to say by way of prospectus or announcement of the course he proposed to take in the management of the paper. All he had to say was in the following brief sentence:

Savannah: Printed by James Johnston, at the Printing Office, on Broughton Street where Advertisements, Letters of Intelligence, and Subscriptions for this Paper are taken in.

The paper was called the Georgia Gazette.

The foreign news was not of great importance. Of American news the most important was from Philadelphia dated January 27, to this effect:

Yesterday his Honour the Governor proclaimed at the Court House the cessation of hostilities (ending with the